

ABSTRACTS

Katalin Baráth: *Travel Letters by Hungarian Footballers and the Problem of Global Identity, 1911–1939*

Before the First World War, Hungarian football was becoming ever more active in the international sport scene. National teams and clubs were no longer limited to Hungary but were increasingly able to try themselves in away games outside the country. Their tours included progressively more non-European destinations, and the captains and players updated the national newspapers about their journeys by sending regular travel letters describing their journey abroad. Besides providing glimpses into the everyday life of a nascent spectator sport industry, their reports also help understand and define the concept of global identity, which is often referred to but seldom empirically examined by scholars of globalization.

The analysis of the travel letters examines the global or national character of the identities expressed therein. The findings suggest that the existence of a pure and fixed global identity remains doubtful and that the study of the globalization of identities requires a flexible conceptual framework. This flexibility must go beyond the dichotomy of global and national, and allow for synchronous local and global identities. Furthermore, the study proposes that the primary characteristic of global postmodern identity is its non-fixity. The sportsman turned entertainer is an early (but to this day well known) ideal type of this unfixed, floating identity, since their life is governed by uncertainty, high mobility, and short-term stays. Using this novel conceptual framework, one can detect and recognize the traces of globalization in the identity of itinerant Hungarian footballers, fraught with the constant pressure to adapt and expand their roles in the global arena of football.

Péter Bencsik: *Territorialization and Globalization: Historiographical Overview*

In recent decades, social science research has been paying increasing attention to the study of spatiality. The basic concepts of this so-called spatial turn include territoriality and territorialization (and the opposite of the latter one, deterritorialization). However, this spatial turn has coincided with a new wave of globalization, during which many researchers have assumed that space is becoming less important. The present paper reviews the definitions of territoriality, which the author considers to be a static concept, while territorialization and deterritorialization

torialization involve change over time. Some periods of history are characterized by an increase of the rule and control over a given territory (territorialization), while other periods by a decrease of the importance of territoriality (deterritorialization). Territoriality is closely linked to the concept of sovereignty, since the internal and external recognition of control over a territory is essential for any state. The paper, therefore, examines the relationship between territoriality and sovereignty and the challenges that globalization poses to both. In particular, it seeks to answer the question whether globalization inevitably has a deterritorializing effect, whether it causes a clear decline in the role of territoriality, or whether the relationship between the two concepts is more complex.

Zsombor Bódy: Technocratic Transnationality in the 1960s and the Eastern Bloc's Independence from Globalization

Through the foundation and early history of the National Committee for Technical Development, the study examines the roles of technocratic experts embedded in global trends but operating in socialist Hungary in the 1960s and 1970s. The approach is based on the newest trends in the history of technocracy, which posits that the face of modern societies in the twentieth century was shaped more by technocratic expert knowledge than the various incumbent political systems. The technocratic thinking that largely defined mid-century and later modernity and identified itself as science-based rather than ideology-driven, was global and rested on the same baselines in the Eastern Bloc as in the rest of the world.

The Eastern Bloc, in this respect, did not subscribe to a model fundamentally different from global technocracy even during the era of military opposition in the Cold War. In fact, around 1960, the Hungarian party state, relinquishing the ideology of revolution, expected the broad establishment of technocracy to promote its further consolidation. For this reason, Hungarian technocrats were given more maneuverability and discretion through the National Committee for Technical Development, which undertook the remit of a ministry for research and development and technology import, while resolutely remaining outside the state administration and assuming the necessity of an autonomous and collaborative space for technocratic experts.

Melinda Kalmár: Intersections of Global Competition: The Soviet Bloc and the Challenges of the Cold War

As a result of the nuclear power equilibrium, achieved through the post-war American-Soviet race for supremacy, the possibility of direct military conflict

decreased significantly from the mid-1950s onwards. At the same time, the arms race between the two superpowers was accompanied by rivalry in all walks of life and the number of domains of such peaceful competition radically increased in the subsequent decades. In this situation, the dynamics of the rivalry between the two superpowers created an entire system of mutual interactions despite their opposition. The extreme diversity of the domains of competition covered vast distances both physically and virtually and followed steep rollercoaster curves across a few decades: competition was present on the ground as well as in space and air, on the surface and in the depths of the seas; it affected international relations as profoundly as it did everyday life. The high amplitude of competition separated and connected parts of the world with divergent world views and formative structures. Rivalry and its reciprocally inspirational effects together created a global climate, that is to say, an expansive civilizational ecosystem, which is now known as a characteristic of the second half of the twentieth century, or, in more simplified terms, as the Cold War.

Zoltán Kékesi – Máté Zombory: Antifascist Memory Revised: Hungarian Historical Exhibitions in Oświęcim and Paris, 1965

This article challenges the widely accepted thesis that the antifascist memory of the Second World War suppressed Holocaust commemoration. Instead of exploring the exceptions to this rule by looking for single cases representing some aspects of the Holocaust, the authors argue that antifascist memory presents a distinct cultural regime for remembering the past. They claim that antifascist memory, understood as a particular historical phenomenon on a European scale, opened specific ways to commemorate the Jewish genocide. The paper relies on two pillars: first, on recent memory studies scholarship that challenged “the myth of silence” in relation to the postwar decades and turned recently to the 1950s and 1960s; second, on recent studies revisiting antifascism itself, demonstrating its transnational and ideologically diverse nature. A contested but until the 1970s still commonly held pan-European antifascist legacy of the Second World War fostered not only intra-Eastern bloc collaboration but also cross-Cold War cooperation with respect to the memory of the Second World War. The authors present an empirical comparative study that discusses the 1965 Hungarian pavilion at the Auschwitz State Museum and the Hungarian section at the permanent exhibition at the Museum of the Memorial of the Unknown Jewish Martyr in Paris which opened in the same year. Based on archival documents in Budapest, Oświęcim, and Paris, the paper argues that the antifascist framework of both exhibitions displayed a coherent, historically accurate, and comprehensive account of the genocide that unambiguously articulated the Jewish identity of those perished and persecuted.

Gábor Koloh: The Problem of Demographic Transition: Possible Interpretations of a Global Process

The study explores the process of demographic transition and its possible interpretations from the perspective of the history of globalization. The descriptive part of the study focuses on changes in Central Europe, as well as recent and new research findings which suggest an incomplete period of decrease both in birth and mortality rates. The author then moves on to examine the interpretations of the reasons for this phenomenon, highlighting their social and economic diversity, and especially the role of cultural diffusion. The third part is dedicated to current research trends, which stresses the increasing necessity of connecting macro- and micro-level research. Based on this, the author states that even though joint meetings, problem statements and debates exist, most of the heroic results of the last four decades was individual achievement rather than the result of collaboration between disciplines. The historic portrayal of society evidently does not lend itself to a priori approaches, since the grand overarching models omit exactly those local characteristics and nuanced transitions, which do not necessarily affect the summary findings, but often reveal details which gain significance under the minute scrutiny of historians. In the latter case, however, the global perspective is at risk, whereby the fixity of the interpretation of findings only allows the extrapolation of the particular with relative certainty. From a global angle, the theory of demographic transition denotes the sum or a shared set of possible demographic behaviors. Thus it is an ideal type, which reflects an easily defined transformation, while acknowledging a number of variants of local factors. The variants—that is the characteristics of various local processes—do not emerge out of the comparison of settlements located far away from each other, outside the possible boundaries of cultural diffusion. They become understandable by connecting both the similarities and differences arising from a closely reflective shift in scale.

Péter Nagy: Taylor's Followers in Hungary: The Beginnings of Scientific Management

Right after its inception, Frederick Winslow Taylor's system took the world by a storm. His ideas reached Hungary very fast, where the engineering community, open to new scientific breakthroughs, turned to the concept of rationalizing labor activities eagerly. Its introduction was expected to improve productivity and economic profitability, as well as the satisfaction of workers brought on by higher wages as a result of increased efficiency. In 1910, Taylor's system was partially implemented at a large Hungarian corporation; in 1912, a debate was initiated about it, and the first studies were published. However, as opposed to Taylor's theory, the working class had strong reservations about the new models.

They saw them as new means of control and discipline and were concerned that they will bring higher expectations of productivity. Further development of scientific management was stunted by the First World War and the Versailles Treaty, and the Hungarian public did not return to Taylor's principles until the mid- to late 1920s. The real turning point was brought about by the economic boom, and the promotion of rationalizing, savvy professionals into higher positions. The Third International Congress organized in 1927 welcomed the first Hungarian delegates, and the spread of Taylorian principles gained real momentum thereafter. First Hungarian factory owners, then the government came to embrace the efficiency increasing management system. It entered the discourse outside the realm of industry as well, especially in public administration, and within a few years, a wealth of articles was dedicated to the importance of rationalizing. By 1931/32, the first Hungarian bodies of scientific management were founded, operating as subsidiaries to international organizations, which ultimately fostered their connection to the global forum of labor organizations.